



Inside Illinois DNR

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IDNR Careers

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Marc Miller



This past spring, Illinois Department of Natural Resources staff held Conservation Congress regional brainstorming meetings across the state. The engaging, robust discussions about our state's natural resources set the table for a future gathering of dedicated conservationists. While we had originally hoped to reunite in September, given the depth of our conversations and our sincere goal to ensure a meaningful event, we will now host Conservation Congress on April 11 and 12, 2014 in Springfield.

While the timing for the event has changed, our commitment to working with you has not. Soon we will be providing you with summaries of the comments received at the regional meetings, plus give you another opportunity to weigh in through a survey we are developing. Many of you have raised issues that our agency is already working to address and we intend to also provide you with an update regarding those activities.

As you know, this is a historical moment for our agency. With renewed funding and a fresh focus, we are set to move forward on a new path. Our goal is to work together to set priorities and continue our efforts to preserve our natural resources for you, your family and for the generations of Illinois families to come.

Yours in Conservation,

The Great Parks Partnership



In the fall of 2012, The Illinois General Assembly passed a funding package for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources giving the agency much needed new revenues after a decade of severe budget and staffing cuts.

The Illinois DNR is committed to protecting the integrity of these funds by using them for the purposes for which they were intended.

The Great Parks Partnership has a clear and simple goal: Use these new revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the new funds will be used to hire critical staff at state parks and to cut down on the over \$750 million in backlogged maintenance at our state parks.

DNR in the news

Gov. Quinn signs law to protect Landowners

2013 waterfowl hunting dates announced

IDNR honors volunteers

IDNR addressing backlog of maintenance at State Parks

Youth Firearm Deer hunt is Oct. 12-14

**Statewide Offices
Springfield, IL
217-782-6302**

**Bartlett, IL
847-608-3109**

**Clinton, IL
217-935-6860**

**Alton, IL
618-462-1181**

**Benton, IL
618-435-8138**

Here's how IDNR Sustainability dollars have been used in our state parks since March of 2013

Description	Location
Hired 39 new employees	28 individual state parks/sites

IDNR Legislation



Landowner Liability

Senate Bill 1042, signed by Governor Pat Quinn, extends liability protections for landowners who allow the public to freely access their property for conservation and recreational activities such as bird watching, biking, fishing, hiking, and other forms of outdoor recreation. Presently, such protections only exist for hunting and recreational shooting. SB 1042 provides a greater incentive for landowners to make land accessible to the public, thereby creating more public conservation and recreation opportunities. SB 1042 was passed unanimously by the General Assembly and takes effect January 1, 2014.



Boating safety

Governor Pat Quinn recently signed two bills to make public waterways safer. Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 1479 – sponsored by State Senator Julie A. Morrison (D-Deerfield), whose 10-year-old nephew Tony Borcia was killed after a boating accident last summer, and State Representative Scott Drury (D-Highwood) – which ensures motorboat operators involved in an accident involving serious injury or death must consent to the chemical testing of their blood, breath, or urine to determine blood alcohol or drug content.



Hunting

Governor Pat Quinn signed two bills aimed at protecting Illinois natural resources and honoring Illinois veterans. Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 1170 into law making it illegal to transport wildlife or parts of wildlife that were illegally killed in another state or country. Such possession would constitute a Class B misdemeanor, which is the penalty for most violations of the Wildlife Code. The Governor also signed SB 50, which waives the field training portion of hunting education requirements for Illinois veterans. The law now allows veterans to receive a hunting education certificate after taking just the online education course.

Illinois Conservation Foundation

Tickets are available now for the 2013 Illinois Conservation Foundation Raffle supporting youth programs at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center in Pecatonica, IL. Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three for \$250. Raffle prizes – including a grand prize of up to \$100,000 – will be presented at a drawing in Sangamon County on November 1, 2013. The raffle is being conducted in accordance with the Raffles Act. All business operations of the raffle take place exclusively in Sangamon County. Raffle tickets are available online at www.ilcf.org and by mail at: ICF, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.



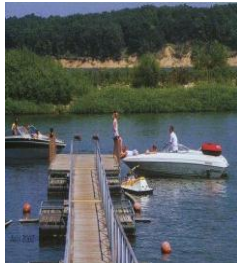
This Month's Highlights



The 2013 dove hunting season opened on September 1 and runs through October 27 throughout the state of Illinois. Hunting hours at public sites where dove hunting is available are sunrise to sunset. Hunters may take a daily limit of mourning and white-winged doves. The second segment of dove season is November 2-13. For more information check out the [hunting and trapping digest online](#).



The Illinois State Museum's 'Super Saturdays' program for children is on Migrating Monarchs on Sept. 14, 11 a.m. -3 p.m. Every fall, monarch butterflies fly thousands of miles to spend the winter in the forests of Mexico. Children will learn about the lifecycle and migration of Illinois' state insect during the free event. The Illinois State Museum is located in the State Capitol Complex at 502 S. Spring, Springfield. For more information: www.museum.state.il.us/events



Local governments, privately-owned marinas and boatyards have until Sept. 25, 2013 to apply for grants available to provide temporary docking facilities for large boats through the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. Funds for the program come from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels through the Sport Fishing and Boating Safety program, and can provide up to 75 percent of an approved project's cost.

For more check out our monthly [calendar of events!](#)

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